

live in general upon animals which inhabit muddy bottoms, such as *Ophiocoma neglecta*, the *Linei*, and *Leptoplana tremellaris*. Such are *Balatro*, parasitic on the limnicolous annelids, and *Saccobdella*, a parasite of *Nebalia* *. However, the Orthonectida possess neither the rotatory apparatus nor the mastax of the Rotifera, nor even the bifurcated tail or the pharynx of the Gastrotricha. The most interesting question to be solved in the history of our parasites is whether these animals have remained normally at the *planula*-stage, or have retrograded to this primitive state, just as the Dicyemida have returned to the *morula*-stage, in consequence of parasitism. The fact of retrogression does not seem to me to be doubtful in the case of the Dicyemida, which I regard as degraded Turbellaria (the *Dicyema* of the cuttlefish still possesses the bacilli so characteristic of the skin of the Planarians). The proofs of the degradation of the Orthonectida are far from being so evident; and these animals perhaps represent the most interesting step in the complicated phylum of the Vermes†.—*Comptes Rendus*, October 29, 1877, p. 812.

A new Species of Chimæra found in American Waters.

By THEODORE GILL.

One of the most unexpected discoveries recently made in American ichthyology is that of a species of the genus *Chimæra*, of which a specimen has lately been sent to the Smithsonian Institution. It was caught south-east of the La Have bank, in lat. $42^{\circ} 40' N.$, long. $63^{\circ} 23' W.$, at a depth of 350 fathoms, with a bait of halibut. An attentive comparison of the specimen with individuals of the European *Chimæra monstrosa* renders it evident that it does not belong to that species, but is an entirely distinct specific form. It may be named *Chimæra plumbea*, and diagnosed as follows:—

Chimæra plumbea.

A *Chimæra* with the snout acutely produced; the anteorbital flexure of the suborbital line extending little above the level of the inferior margin of the orbit; the dorsals close together; the dorsal spine with its anterior surface rounded; the ventrals triangular and pointed; the pectorals extending to the outer axil of the ventrals; and the colour uniformly plumbeous.

By these characters the species is readily separable from the *Chimæra monstrosa* and other species of the genus.—*Bulletin of the Philosophical Society of Washington*.

Note on the Habits of Young Limulus. By ALEXANDER AGASSIZ.

Mr. C. D. Walcott has called attention to the fact that when collecting fossils he finds large numbers of Trilobites on their back ‡;

* Claus still places *Saccobdella* among the Hirudinea; and this error has unfortunately not been corrected in the French translation of his treatise on Zoology.

† The preceding investigations were made at the Laboratory at Wimeureux, in September and October of the present year (1877).

‡ Ann. Lyc. Nat. Hist. xi. p. 155, 1875; Twenty-eighth Report N.Y. State Museum, Dec. 1876.